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Printed
Sir,

Copy Hamilton to La Fayette
Camp before York Town.
October 15, 1781.

I have the honor to render you an account of the efforts under my command in your attack of last night, upon the redoubt on the left of the enemy's lines.

agreeable to your orders we advanced in two columns with unloaded arms - the right composed of Lt Col Gimat's battalion and my own commanded by Major Fish - the left of a detachment commanded by Lt Col Laurens destined to take the enemy in reverse, and intercept their retreat. The column on the right was preceded by a van guard of twenty men led by Lt Mansfield - and a detachment of sappers and miners, commanded by Capt. Gilliland for the purpose of removing obstructions.

The redoubt was commanded by Major Campbell, with a detachment of British and German Troops, and was completely in a state of defence.

The rapidity and immediate success of the assault are the best comment on the behaviour of the troops. Lt Col Laurens distinguished himself by an exact and vigorous execution of his part of the plan, by entering the enemy's work with his corps among the foremost, and making prisoner the commanding officer of the redoubt.* They were well seconded by Major Fish with the battalion under his command, who, when the front of the column reached the abatis, unlocking his corps to the left, as he had been directed, advanced with such alacrity, as to arrive in time to participate in the assault.

Lt Mansfield deserves particular commendation for the coolness, firmness and punctuality with which he conducted the van guard. Capt. Olney, who commanded the first platoon of Gimat's battalion is entitled to peculiar applause. He led his platoon into the work with exemplary

* Lt. Col. Gimat's battalion which formed the van of the night-attack and which fell under my immediate observation, encouraged by the decisive and animated example of their leader